United Nations A/65/724–S/2011/45

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
8 February 2011
English
Original: Russian

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 69 (c)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 24 January 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, adopted at the meeting of the Council held in Moscow on 10 December 2010 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present statement could be circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 69 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sirodjidin **Aslov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-22939 (E) 090211 100211

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 24 January 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station

On 26 April 2011, 25 years will have elapsed since the Chernobyl tragedy: the worst man-made and social disaster of the twentieth century. The States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States have declared this day as the International Day Commemorating Victims of Radiation Accidents and Catastrophes.

The challenges associated with the consequences of the Chernobyl tragedy will also remain pertinent for future generations. Disasters on such a scale transform the affected territories into crisis areas for many decades.

We remember the courage and self-sacrifice of the hundreds of thousands of disaster relief workers who came from all the republics of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) to respond to the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Risking their lives and health, they fulfilled their duty and prevented the further spread of harmful radioactive fallout.

Despite the measures taken, the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster continue to have a negative impact on life in the affected countries. Several million individuals require special medical monitoring. In certain regions, large-scale protective measures continue to be necessary to ensure safe living conditions for people in the contaminated territories.

The top priority in addressing the consequences of the Chernobyl accident is the comprehensive radiation clean-up and economic and social rehabilitation of the contaminated territories and improving the social and economic potential of the affected regions. This calls for new scientifically sound approaches, significant resources and, consequently, financial, scientific and technical assistance from the international community.

Certain steps have already been taken towards that end: the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the third decade after the Chernobyl disaster (2006-2016) as the Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions, to be focused on achieving the goal of a return to normal life for the affected communities. The relevant United Nations action plan is being implemented.

We note with satisfaction that the General Assembly welcomed the decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States to declare 26 April as the International Day Commemorating Victims of Radiation Accidents and Catastrophes in the States members of the Commonwealth, and invited Member States of the United Nations to observe this day and to conduct appropriate events to commemorate victims of radiation accidents and catastrophes.

By observing the International Day Commemorating Victims of Radiation Accidents and Catastrophes on 26 April and paying tribute to the memory of those

who died as a result of the Chernobyl disaster, we reaffirm our commitment to create the necessary conditions for providing social protection to the Chernobyl disaster relief workers.

We believe that multilateral cooperation and sharing experience between Government agencies and non-governmental organizations in our countries will enable us to collectively overcome the consequences of this disaster.

We call on the global community to continue its collaboration in this regard and to actively use new forms of cooperation, leading to coordinated action that complements large-scale national efforts for the recovery of the affected regions.

Moscow, 10 December 2010